

Bat Activities

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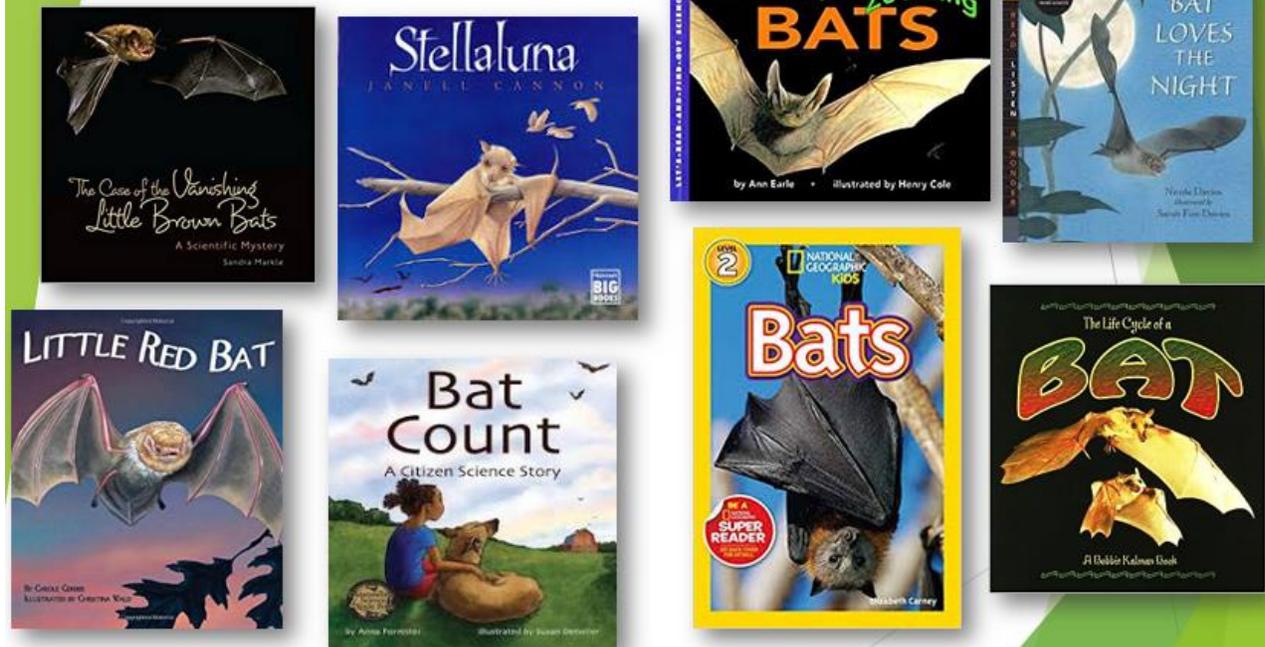
Did you know? International Bat Appreciation Day is in April! Personally, I feel like bat appreciation day should be every day! To learn more about local bats, check out our [Guide to Maryland bats](#). For short videos about bats, including Bat Squad videos for kids, check out the [Bat Conservation International YouTube page](#). Many of the resources below are courtesy of [Project EduBat](#).



Early Learners (preK-2nd grade)

1. Bats are mammals. Teach students about the characteristics of mammals versus birds. Consider reading *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon which also reinforces these concepts. Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast bats versus birds.
2. Sing and act out the song [Five Little Bats with JAMaROO](#). Sing and dance [with Sesame Street's Batty Bat song](#).
3. Learn about how bats echolocate with [this video from Bat Conservation International](#).
4. Bats sometimes are underappreciated. Project WILD's First Impressions activity looks at how different animals are perceived and how those perceptions might change with some education. Consider using the cards provided by [Project WILD](#) or our [First Impressions cards](#). Show students the pictures and poll them to see if they have positive, neutral, or negative reactions to the animals. Consider talking with students to learn about why they have those feelings. Create a graph of their reactions (an example can be found with the Project WILD link). After the poll, have students research the different animals, either by reading books or reading online. Provide students with questions: *how does it grow up?* *What does it eat?* Consider providing materials to younger students. Have students present their research to their class. After their research, poll the students again to see if their reactions have changed. Why or why not?
5. Use the suggested books below to read more about bats. As a class or as an individual, fill out the [Bats Can, Have, Eat worksheet](#).
6. Make bat crafts out of [toilet paper rolls](#) or egg cartons. [Print and decorate a bat mask](#).
7. Check out our [Wildlife Coloring Book](#) and color pictures of two local bat species as well as other wildlife.
8. Did you know? Some bats eat fruit. If you were a bat, what fruit would you eat? [Use this free printable](#) to make a fruit bat food pattern.
9. [Measure a bat](#) using paperclips, pennies, and more!
10. Female bats locate their young, called pups, using their sense of smell. Make large (adult) and small (pup) bat cutouts and glue a cotton ball to each. Pair up a large and small bat. For each pair, add a couple drops of fragrance, essential oil, or extract to the cotton ball. Spread the pairs around the room and see if students can match the pup to the adult bat using scent.

Children's Books



Upper Elementary (3rd-5th)

1. Learn all about bats using the [Bat Squad videos](#) that have subtitles in both French and Spanish.
2. Bats are mammals like us. Learn how we compare to bats using the [How Do I Compare to a Bat activity](#) from Project EduBat.
3. Learn about bat anatomy and [fill in the bat anatomy diagram](#).
4. Learn how bats echolocate by watching [this video from IncredibleBats](#). Create your own [echolocation experiment](#).
5. Female bats locate their young, called pups, using their sense of smell. Make large (adult) and small (pup) bat cutouts and glue a cotton ball to each. Pair up a large and small bat. For each pair, add a couple drops of fragrance, essential oil, or extract to the cotton ball. Spread the pairs around the room and see if students can match the pup to the adult bat using scent.
6. Read the [Be a Bat Hero Bat Brigade graphic novel](#) to learn about ways to help bats.
7. Learn about habitat for bats through the [Little Brown Bat- What's Your Habitat? Activity](#) from Project EduBat. Afterwards, take a walk in your neighborhood to see if you can identify bat habitat. What are ways that bat habitat can be improved?
8. Check out the [Night Friends American Bat Activity Guide](#) from National Wildlife Federation.
9. Check out bat math activities on [MathWire.com](#).
10. Make your own [flying bat with wings](#) from Project EduBat.
11. Teach others about bats using this [fun at your fingertips activity](#) from Project EduBat.

Middle School and High School (6th-12th)

1. Bats are extremely important as predators, pollinators, and as seed dispersers. Check out this activity to [Calculate the Value of Bats](#) from Project EduBat.
2. Learn about local bats by viewing the map and reading articles on bats on the [US Fish and Wildlife website](#). What species are found in your area?
3. Learn how bats echolocate by watching [this video from SciToons](#). Experiment with echolocation using [this activity from TeachEngineering.org](#).
4. Habitat loss is one of the major threats to wildlife today. Consider building and installing a bat house. For building plans, installation tips, and more, visit the [Bat Conservation International website](#).
5. Help bats by becoming part of the Bat Squad! Check out the [Bat Squad lesson plan](#) from Project EduBat.
6. Vampire bats are not found in Maryland, but they are some of the most notorious bats worldwide. Watch this short [PBS episode](#) to learn a little more about vampire bats. Next, watch NPR's video on the [Case for Vampire Bats](#). Ask students if vampire bats should be removed. Should animals have a human use to justify protection? Why or why not?

Intermediate Books

